

SIR KNIGHT PASQUALE COLLETTI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sir Knight Pasquale Colletti for his outstanding service to the Chester County community as the Knights of Columbus' Past Faithful Navigator. The Chester County, Pennsylvania Fourth Degree Assembly #1873 has faithfully served the community and parishes for many generations. Mr. Colletti has received numerous accolades and awards from the Assembly and fellow Knights hold him in high esteem for the compassion he shows to families with loved ones in military service. Mr. Colletti extends help, support, and prayers for servicemen and women either before or during deployment or after their return. His leadership in patriotic causes and community service is inspirational. He is a true patriot, an exemplary citizen, and a pillar of the Chester County community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Sir Knight Pasquale Colletti for his leadership, dedication, and love of country. I hope that Mr. Colletti will continue to undertake his great works on behalf of the community and County and help Pennsylvania Fourth Degree Assembly #1873 continue its long history of distinguished community service.

TRIBUTE TO HOPE WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Hope Williams, Jr., the grandson of slaves, the son of a man wrongfully imprisoned, and a civil rights pioneer. This native of rural Fort Motte, South Carolina, was a fixture during the civil rights era in his home state, and his passing on November 21, 2005 left a void that will never be filled.

On June 14, 1910, Mr. Williams was born the youngest of 12 children to Hope, Sr., and Adline Gold Williams during the era of Jim Crow laws. He received only a sixth grade education at Julia Peterkin's Lang Syne School because a public school education was not available to him and others similarly situated. Yet he continued to educate himself beyond his formal school years.

While Mr. Williams was still at home, his father was snatched and put on a chain gang for defending himself against the assault of a local white man. With his mother left to care for her large family alone, Mr. Williams stepped up and helped build a new cabin for his family. The house still stands, although battered by time. It remains a testament to Hope Williams' legacy of determination and endurance.

During World War II the boundaries of skin color temporarily diminished as all young men were called to serve. Hope Williams served his country by cultivating cotton on a Calhoun County farm he secured through one of the government's "Resettlement Administration" programs. However, racial tensions rose

again, and Mr. Williams found himself drawn into the civil rights movement joining the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC. He was involved in organizational meetings with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Penn Center in Frogmore, South Carolina, and helped mobilize voter registration and participation in Calhoun and Orangeburg counties.

His leadership in the African American community, led Mr. Williams to form the Calhoun County Branch of the NAACP, and he served as its president for 12 years. He focused his efforts on working with South Carolina's first Black Senator since Reconstruction, I. DeQuincey Newman, to improve voter registration and economic development in African American communities.

Mr. Williams defied threats by the Ku Klux Klan and even took on the powerful State Senator Marion Gressette, and continued his voter registration drives. Ultimately Senator Gressette deputized him as a registrar with the power to register people where he met them rather than at the voter registration office. He was then appointed to the Calhoun County Board of Education and Voter Participation. He served in that capacity for many years, and was active in many other community organizations.

His dedication to his faith was equally profound. Mr. Williams joined New Bethany Baptist Church at the age of 14, and remained an active member until his passing. He served as Church Clerk, Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent. He became an Ordained Deacon, and finally served as Chairman of the Deacon Board until he fell ill before departing this life.

Mr. Williams was the patriarch of a wonderful family. His married June Miller in August 1932, and the two had 18 children. Mr. Williams was also the proud grandfather of 56 grandchildren and great-grandfather to another 45. At the time of his passing, he had eight great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Hope Williams was a stalwart of the civil rights movement. He was instrumental in helping African-American communities in Calhoun County secure their right to vote, and he was among the unsung heroes in South Carolina that pave the way for me to be elected the first African American to Congress from South Carolina since Reconstruction. In fact, he was very active in all my political efforts until his illness. It was a long road, but one made easier by the tremendous work and sacrifice of men and women like Hope Williams. I encourage you to join me in expressing deep gratitude, posthumously, to Mr. Williams, and to issue that this triumph story is enshrined in the hollowed halls of Congress.

MEDICARE PART D DEADLINE**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress and the Bush Administration to extend the May 15th deadline for enrollment in Medicare Part D.

The Bush Administration has spent millions of taxpayer dollars to promote this complicated plan. However, 6 months after enrollment began, only slightly over half of Medicare re-

cipients, who did not previously have coverage, have enrolled in Part D. These low numbers are due in large part to the complexity of the system, the number of unfamiliar plans entering the market and the misinformation initially presented by CMS.

This was made very clear to me after many meetings with seniors and persons with disabilities in my district that this is unnecessarily complicated and that CMS was unprepared to deal with its implementation from the outset. As Members of Congress, we have all heard from constituents—both Medicare recipients and providers—about the difficulties in enrollment and in the accuracy of the payment system. I even heard from one constituent who was so frustrated by the system that, against our advice, he has disenrolled completely and plans to rely on emergency room care for his health coverage. That is unacceptable.

Coverage decisions are made more difficult by the fact that a beneficiary may only change plans once a year, whereas a plan may change its coverage options on a whim. Regardless of these complexities, those who do not enroll by May 15th will be charged a 7 percent minimum penalty for the rest of their lives. Medicare beneficiaries should not be charged for this Administration's problems. We need to extend the deadline for enrollment and in the meantime, go back to the drawing board and write a Medicare prescription drug plan that makes sense.

The Medicare Part D plan does not provide the comprehensive coverage that is needed for our seniors and persons with disabilities. This plan appears to be focused on providing profits for HMOs and pharmaceutical companies, not on improving health care and quality of life for Medicare recipients. Those priorities are made clear with the provision banning the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating for best price on prescription drugs.

Recent studies show that by negotiating for best price we could save enough money to provide coverage for all recipients without a premium. A comprehensive Medicare drug benefit focused on seniors would come directly from Medicare, would allow negotiation, and would allow for re-importation of prescription drugs when safety standards are met.

We can do better, and we must do better. I urge my colleagues to support a deadline extension and comprehensive prescription drug coverage under Medicare.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Iran Freedom Support Act. We are at a crucial point in U.S. relations with Iran. The U.S. must insist that they stop the nuclear programs, respect international regulations, and end harboring of any terrorist or terrorist funding organizations.

I support my colleagues in taking up this piece of legislation. I urge a yes vote. However, I believe a few changes and improvements to the legislation need to be made before it is sent to the President.

One concern is that section 202 of this bill sanctions companies in the countries who are